

April 25, 1981

[REDACTED]

POLAND: Sensitive Issues for Negotiation

*The government and Solidarity will begin negotiations this weekend on several sensitive issues in an effort to establish a precedent for resolving problems in a noncrisis atmosphere.* [REDACTED]

The discussions are likely to be protracted and difficult because the union will make extensive demands. Teams of Solidarity negotiators today will discuss the union's demands for changes in Polish laws dealing with political dissidents, for greater independence of the judiciary, and for limitations on the role of the militia and security services. [REDACTED]

To create a better atmosphere for the talks, the government has postponed the trial of four extremist dissidents and yesterday released one of them from jail. Although the dissidents have virtually no following within Solidarity, the union remains opposed to the repression of dissident political beliefs. [REDACTED]

Negotiations on Solidarity's demands for greater access to the media will begin on Monday. Since its inception last August, Solidarity has felt that it must be able to get its message to the population if it wants to ensure its continued existence. [REDACTED]

In addition to the weekly newspapers Solidarity is permitted to publish, the union wants the government to establish a special independent editorial staff in the Committee for Radio and Television to produce programs on trade union affairs. Solidarity also wants its own radio and television studio and greater opportunities to write for national and local newspapers. [REDACTED]

At a meeting of its National Consultative Commission earlier this week, Solidarity agreed to a proposal by the government for negotiations on economic matters--but on condition that the government prepare a comprehensive report on the state of the economy and a plan for stabilization and reform. [REDACTED]

In response to the Solidarity demands, the government probably will offer compromises on certain of the union's proposals. It might agree to greater access to the media, for example, but will find it difficult to offer concessions on demands dealing with freedom of speech and restraint of the security forces. [REDACTED]